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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 18 MAY 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued between 1 and 15 May 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

Your intervention is requested with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 1-15 May 1998

1. In the northern region 80 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil, Tall Afar and Baibo.

2. In the southern region 799 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habbariyah, Basrah, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Sukkar, Hisan, Suq al-Shuyukh, Hamzah, Maymunah, Abu Sukhayr, Taqtaqanah, Nu'maniyah, Umm Qasr, Lasaf, Ukhaydir, Afak and Ali al-Sharqi.

3. Twelve violations were committed by TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1900 hours on 20 April 1998 United States aircraft dropped heat flares on cultivated land in the Hammam area of Gharraf district in Dhi Qar Governorate.

5. At 1150, 1310, 1407, 1545, 1715, 1100, 1610 and 1617 hours on 26 and 27 April 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr and Faw.

6. At 1000, 1037, 1413, 1425 and 1740 hours on 29 April 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

7. At 1545, 1340, 1130 and 1200 hours on 2, 3 and 7 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.

8. At 1128 and 1027 hours on 5 and 10 May 1998 a formation consisting of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over Mosul and Tall Kayf.

9. At 1120, 1405, 0850, 0940 and 1534 hours on 8 and 9 May 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over Umm Qasr.